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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 00991 180117Z
ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /020 W
----------036588 180626Z /17
R 171715Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9955
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL TRIESTE POUCH
AMCONSUL TURIN POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT, UR
SUBJECT: PCI SEMINAR ON PROBLEMS OF SOVIET HISTORY

1. THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) HAS NOW CONCLUDED A THREE DAY SEMINAR ON THE SUBJECT OF "PROBLEMS OF THE HISTORY OF THE USSR." ACCORDING TO AN EMBASSY SOURCE WHO ATTENDED ALL THE SESSIONS, THE SEMINAR INDICATED THE EXISTENCE OF A GULF BETWEEN THE PCI LEADERSHIP AND THE PARTY'S INTELLECTUALS IN EVALUATING THE HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF THE SOVIET UNION. THE SOURCE SAID THAT CRITICISM OF SOVIET SOCIETY WAS MOST PRONOUNCED AMONG THE YOUNGER PCI INTELLECTUALS PRESENT.

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2. OUR SOURCE STATED THAT CRITICISM OF THE USSR'S HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE FOUR MAJOR PAPERS DELIVERED AT THE SEMINAR (COPIES ARE BEING POUCHED TO INR/RSE/SE) CENTERED ON THE ABSENCE OF DEMOCRATIC SAFEGUARDS IN THE CREATION OF A SOCIALIST SOCIETY AND ON THE FAILURE OF THE PRESENT SOVIET LEADERSHIP TO COMPLETE THE DE-STALINIZATION PROCESS BEGUN AT THE 20TH PARTY CONGRESS. ONE OF THE SPEAKERS

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ASKED WHY "THE PROCESS BEGUN BY THE OCTOBER
REVOLUTION, IMBUED AT THE BEGINNING BY AN ENORMOUS
EMANCIPATING IMPULSE, LATER ACQUIRED CHARACTERISTICS OFTEN
FAR FROM ITS THEORETICAL PREMISES." ANOTHER SPEAKER
DEFINED IT AS "COMPLETELY JUSTIFIABLE, EVEN INEVITABLE,
TO RAISE SERIOUS QUESTIONS IN THE FACE OF EVIDENT DIFFI-
CULTIES THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS ENCOUNTERING IN EXITING
FULLY FROM THE PERIOD OF STALIN."

3. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, SECRETARIAT MEMBER GIANCARLO
PAJETTA AND DIRECTORATE MEMBER ALDO TORTORELLA ENTERED
INTO THE DISCUSSION WITH SPEECHES WHICH APPEARED DESIGNED
TO DEMONSTRATE THE PCI LEADERSHIP'S CONCERN THAT CRITICISM
OF THE USSR NOT GO TOO FAR. TORTORELLA WARNED HIS AUDIENCE
"NOT TO REDUCE THE COUNTRIES OF THE SOCIALIST REALITY TO
A GULAG." THIS IS AN IMPOSTATION "WHICH DEPARTS FROM
POLITICAL PREMISES AND LEADS TO POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES,
WITH DANGERS OF RETURNING TO THE COLDWAR, SOMETHINGOF
WHICH WE ALL OUGHT TO BE AWARE." GARDNER

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